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slips in English, and loose statements. Misstatements and misuses of technical terms are altogether too numerous, even for a first edition. Of these a few examples must suffice. On page 233 we read that the Kentucky coffee tree "has the most compound leaves of all American trees"; on page 2 a tulip flower is said to consist of six leaves; on page 187 occurs the statement that "corn is the only grass which bears the sterile and fertile flowers on separate heads"; and on page 4 sepals are called leaflets. In spite of these defects, however, we should say that teachers may gain from this book not a little of profitable fact and hint if they are disposed to have due patience in overlooking much that seems crude and practically valueless.

FREDERICK LEROY SARGENT.

Needham's Outdoor Studies.¹—With the rapid development of "nature study" in the American schools has come a marked increase in the putting forth of nature study books. A good nature study book should be, above all, truthful; its telling of nature should be accurate. Then it should be readily comprehensible, and written so as to attract and to hold the interest of its intended readers, be they teachers or children or both. Professor Needham's little book possesses the qualifications just enumerated. The author is a careful and intelligent naturalist, and writes from personal observation and experience. He writes simply, and he writes interestingly. *Outdoor Studies* is certainly one of the good nature study books.

The book is written, suggests the author, especially for the children. It is insistent in its demands for personal work by the student in "seeing and doing and thinking," and explicit in its explanations of how to do this work. There are chapters on flowers and insects and chipmunks and birds under such titles as "Butter and Eggs and Bumblebees," "Goldenrod, its Visitors and Tenants," and "Houses that Grow" (galls and gall insects). The book is charmingly and helpfully illustrated, and the big scientific names, whose value is not overlooked but whose fear-inspiring capacity is fully recognized, are disposed of in a unique and effective way. Altogether the book is one to recommend to teachers, to parents, and to the children, for whom it is primarily written.

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¹ *Outdoor Studies, A Reading Book of Nature Study.* By James G. Needham. Eclectic School Readings, American Book Company. New York, 1898.